

1. "In her drive to increase the volume of exports, Poland has scored some minor successes recently [prior to 22 Dec 53] but also has met with serious setbacks due entirely to her economic dependence on the USSR with the resultant pressure on Polish industry.

Exports to the UK

2. "The following import licences were recently granted by the British Board of Trade:
 - (a) Canned fish, canned fish roe and caviar - unlimited quantities from Poland, other satellite countries and the USSR, starting 1 Jan 54 (Open General Licence). On behalf of Poland, ANGLO-DAL is conducting negotiations, but the exported quantities will not be very large as most of the Polish offers are for freshwater fish which are not very popular in the UK.
 - (b) Large quantities of onions in brine against individual licences granted to bona fide British importers, valid for the first half year of 1954: from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and the Soviet zone Germany, and also from the USSR.

Exports to France

3. "On the basis of the last [Franco-Polish] commercial agreement, during the year 1954 Poland will export following items to France:
 - Cotton, rayon and woolen textiles to French overseas possessions
 - Certain types of timber to French North Africa
 - Paper pulp, matches
 - Coal
 - Soya beans
 - Salted pig casings
 - Down and feathers.
4. "French exports to Poland will include: iron ore, superphosphates from North Africa, mining machines and tools, electric equipment, spare parts for French motor vehicles, certain dyes, drugs and pharmaceutic chemicals.

Exports to Far and Near East

5. "Markets in the Far and Near East [sic] are now receiving offers from the Polish state-company ROLIMPEX for Polish sugar. The offers are for quantities from 10,000 to 25,000 tons per single contract to private importers, and are separate from governmental bulk purchases of Polish sugar on the grounds of the respective trade agreements. It is understood that the quality of this sugar is quite satisfactory. The latest offers are the result of the success of the autumn 1953 campaign in Poland.

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6. "It does not seem that the good sugar production of 1953 will bring an increase of sugar supplies for the internal Polish market. A large proportion of the sugar quota for 'domestic use' is directed to various factories producing sweets, biscuits, chocolates, fruit preserves and juices for export.

Offers of Polish textiles

7. "Large offers of Polish cotton textiles are being made by the state enterprise CETERE, particularly to buyers in the Far and Near East and also- through the intermediary of British exporters - to South Africa and Ceylon. These comprise mostly cheap printed fabrics, shirtings and cotton flannel. The prices demanded are quite cheap, and the samples have shown a good finish and very attractive patterns. Some deliveries have already been contracted.

8. "It has become obvious, however that CETERE shall have great difficulties in fulfilling these contractual obligations, and it is uncertain whether, in spite of low prices, it will be possible to introduce Polish cottons to the international markets in large quantities. The reason is that recently the quality of these products has become incomparably worse. Also, such large quantities have had to be exported to the USSR and China that the delivery of fabrics purchased by other importers is unavoidably delayed, sometimes as long as four or five months.

9. "The reasons for the lowering of production standards are:

- (a) Polish factories depend almost entirely on Soviet raw cotton, most of which is of very bad quality. In addition, there are long delays in deliveries.
- (b) Under the pressure of various commitments, especially in view of the new obligations towards USSR and China, Polish factories have been ordered by the government to work at the greatest possible speed. Consequently, the manufacture of weaving yarn is very bad; the yarn often breaks on the machine and knots appear in the fabric. The same happens in weaving workshops: because of the required speed many faults appear in the finished fabric. There are often seven knots in one meter of material. Printing is also done very quickly, which causes many faults in patterns: colors overlap; the lines become smudged or erased.

10. "Although the situation should really be improved at its source - i.e. supply of bad raw materials from the USSR, delays and pressure for speed - the Polish authorities try to cope by the usual means of setting targets of 'the greatest speed and the best production', which the workers are expected to achieve by superhuman efforts. Trade unions of textile workers and the managements of textile factories and workshops are called upon to help save this branch of Polish exports, which stands in great peril despite the really competitive prices at which the goods are offered."

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